

Appleby Archaeology

Dec 2005

At the December meeting members of the Appleby Archaeology had the opportunity of hearing about the Portable Antiquities Scheme and to meet Dot Bruns the Finds Liaison Officer for Lancashire and Cumbria .

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a voluntary scheme for the recording of archaeological artefacts found by members of the public thereby promoting the recording of chance finds and increasing public awareness of the importance of such objects for understanding our past. The scheme was established in 1997 and is managed by a consortium of national bodies led by the Museums, Archives and Libraries Council. It now covers England and Wales, and has 36 Finds Liaison Officers.

The main role of the Finds Liaison Officers (FLO) is to record archaeological objects found by the public. They also have a role in publicising the Scheme, giving advice on recording, conservation and the Treasure Act. Records of the finds are published on the Scheme's web site. FLOs have identified over 300,000 artefacts since 1997. Many of these finds are the result of metal detecting and a good working relationship with local groups is of great value. The FLO can be called out to aid in the excavation of a find on site.

Dot explained that 75% of the finds are likely to belong to the finder but there are those which are covered by the Treasures Act of 1996. She outlined the categories of objects that do not qualify as treasure such as objects whose owners can be traced, and those that do qualify for example any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find.

Several members had brought artefacts to the meeting and Dot spent some time examining them advising the finders. and answering a number of questions from the floor.

Any member of the public is encouraged to contact their local FLO regarding any finds and she can be contacted at the Lancashire County Museum, Preston or at Tuille House Museum Carlisle.

The next meeting will be in the Supper Room Market Hall Appleby on the Tuesday 10th January

starting with the Annual General Meeting at 7pm followed by a Members Evening , The two speakers will be Trish Crompton on Digging in Slovakia and Martin Railton on Work as a Field Archaeologist in the North East.

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